

Message Text

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12

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 RSC-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 /050 W

----- 023245

R 261055Z OCT 74

FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1351

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 0724

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IZ

SUBJECT: DEATH OF FOREIGN MINISTER TAQA

REF: RABAT 5109

1. DEATH OF IRAQI FOREIGN MINISTER SHADEL TAQA AT AGE OF 45 AND AFTER ONLY SIX MONTHS IN OFFICE IS UNFORTUNATE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF U.S.-IRAQI RELATIONS, BUT NOT OF MAJOR POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE IN IRAQ. TAQA, WHILE A LONGTIME LOYAL BAATHI, HAD NO REAL POLITICAL POWER, NOR DID MFA APPEAR TO TAKE STRENGTH VIS-A-VIS OTHER MINISTRIES DURING HIS SHORT TENURE. HIS EFFECTIVENESS RESULTED FROM HIS BEING CLOSE TO RCC VICE CHAIRMAN SADDAM HUSSEIN AND HIS DIPLOMATIC EXPERIENCE AS AMBASSADOR TO MOSCOW AND UNDER SECRETARY OF MFA. HE HAD WON OVER MANY DIPLOMATS BY BEING READILY ACCESSIBLE AND MORE CANDID THAN HIS PREDECESSOR.

2. HE HAD ALSO SHOWN INTEREST IN EXCHANGING VIEWS WITH U.S. AND INCREASED USINT'S ACCESSIBILITY TO MFA. THIS LINK HAS NOW BEEN CUT AND WE WILL PROBABLY HAVE TO AWAIT
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APPOINTMENT OF SUCCESSOR TO SEE IF IT WILL BE RESTORED.

3. MINISTER OF HIGHER EDUCATION HISHAM ASH-SHAWI IS
ACTING FORMIN AND SAID TO BE LOBBYING HARD FOR THE JOB.
OTHER POTENTIAL CNADIDATES ARE SAID TO BE CHIEF EDITOR
OF ATH-THAWRA TARIO AZIZ AND ABDUL FATAH YASSIN, MEMBER
OF REGIONAL LEADERSHIP, FORMER UNDER SECRETARY OF
MINISTRY OF ECONOMY AND FORMER AMBASSADOR TO LEBANON.
LOWRIE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, POLITICAL LEADERS, DEATHS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: shawdg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BAGHDA00724
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740307-0834
From: BAGHDAD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741014/aaaaalcd.tel
Line Count: 69
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: RABAT 5109
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 JUN 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <12 MAR 2003 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEATH OF FOREIGN MINISTER TAQA
TAGS: PFOR, IZ, US, (TAQA, SHADEL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005